

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CU-02 PC-01 DHA-02
AID-05 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01
USSS-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 /112 W
-----005587 291746Z /46

R 291600Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8235
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF

SUBJECT: STUDENT UNREST SPREADS SPORADICALLY; KRUGER TAKES FIRM STAND

REF: PRETORIA 3741,

1. SUMMARY: STUDENT UNREST IN THE PRETORIA AND JOHANNESBURG BLACK TOWNSHIPS CONTINUED IN SPORADIC INCIDENTS JULY 29. POLICE MINISTER JIMMY KRUGER PROMISED FIRM ACTION AGAINST THE DISSIDENT ACTIVITY, WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO A TWO-PRONGED ATTACK BY BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS GROUPS AND THE ANC. A REPORTED 183 STUDENTS INVOLVED IN THE BOYCOTTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR TRUANCY. END SUMMARY.

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2. STUDENT UNREST IN THE PRETORIA AND JOHANNESBURG BLACK TOWNSHIPS CONTINUED TO SPREAD IN ISOLATED INCIDENTS JULY 29. IN ATTERIDGEVILLE, THE ANTI-BANTU EDUCATION BOYCOTT BEGUN JULY 25 CONTINUED IN ITS FIFTH DAY AND STUDENTS THERE DEMANDED THAT ALL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS RESIGN BY MIDNIGHT JULY 29. THE SCHOOL BOARDS HAVE ARRANGED A PUBLIC MEETING JULY 31 WITH PARENTS

AT THE SCHOOL TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION. DESPITE NEW ATTEMPTS BY MILITANT STUDENTS TO PERSUADE OR COERCE MAMELODI STUDENTS TO JOIN IN THE BOYCOTT, MOST STUDENTS THERE RETURNED TO CLASSES. ONE SOURCE SAID THAT THE POLICE, IN A CONTINUED ATTEMPT TO CRUSH THE BOYCOTTS, RANDOMLY ARRESTED A REPORTED 183 STUDENTS IN THOSE TOWNSHIPS AND CHARGED THEM WITH TRUANCY. ONE SSRC MEMBER CALLED ON THE POLICE TO STOP THEIR HARASSMENT SINCE "OUR QUARREL IS WITH THE BANTU EDUCATION SYSTEM, NOT WITH THEM."

3. IN THE JOHANNESBURG AREA OF MEADOWLANDS, SOME YOUTHS REPORTEDLY TRIED TO PREVENT STUDENTS FROM ATTENDING SCHOOL, THREW STONES AT VEHICLES, AND TRIED TO LOOT A PASSING TRUCK. THEY WERE DISPERSED WHEN POLICE FIRED TEARGAS AT THEM. ATTENDANCE AT MEADOWLANDS JUNIOR HIGHS WAS REPORTED TO BE POOR, BUT MOST SENIOR HIGH STUDENTS WERE IN THEIR CLASSROOMS. IN SOWETO, POLICE PATROLLED THE STREETS AFTER A SERIES OF MARCHES THERE JULY 28. MOST SCHOOLS REPORTED NORMAL ATTENDANCE, BUT ORLANDO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ON JULY 29 BEGAN A BOYCOTT OF CLASSES AFTER THE POLICE ALLEGEDLY SET THEIR DOGS ON A STUDENT GROUP OUTSIDE THE GROUNDS. (CONGEN JOHANNESBURG IS REPORTING IN MORE DETAIL ON THE TENSE SITUATION IN SOWETO.) IN SPRINGS, SOME TEACHERS WERE STONED AND WINDOWS BROKEN AT THE TLAKULA SECONDARY SCHOOL AFTER THE PRINCIPAL PROHIBITED STUDENTS FROM ESTABLISHING A STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL. IN QWAQWA, THE MAMPOI HIGH SCHOOLS WERE CLOSED AFTER STUDENTS THERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STONED TWO TEACHERS. SEVEN WERE REPORTEDLY ARRESTED FOR ASSAULT.

4. POLICE AND JUSTICE MINISTER JIMMY KRUGER TOOK A HARD LINE ON THE CONTINUING UNREST IN A STATEMENT TO THE CITIZEN JULY 29. HE SAID THAT "NO AMOUNT OF PRESSURE, FROM INSIDE OR FROM OVERSEAS, FROM AMERICA OR ANYBODY ELSE, WILL MAKE THE GOVERNMENT RUN." HE ATTRIBUTED THE UNREST TO A TWO-PRINGED PLAN TO CREATE ANARCHY AND CHAOS IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE EXTERNAL PART WAS LED BY THE ANC, PAC, AND S.A. COMMUNIST PARTY WHICH WERE TRAINING TERRORISTS AND REVOLUTIONARIES WHO WERE ATTEMPTING TO INFILTRATE THE COUNTRY. (THE PRESS REPORTED THAT THE SECURITY POLICE HAD SEIZED PAC PAMPHLETS IN ATTERIDGEVILLE JULY 28 IN WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS PART OF A MAJOR INVESTIGATION INTO RENEWED PAC ACTIVITIES). THE SECOND, INTERNAL PART, WAS ORCHESTRATED BY BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS MOVEMENTS WHO, KRUGER SAID, WERE DISRUPTING SCHOOLS AND OTHER STATE INSTITUTIONS IN AN EFFORT TO CREATE UNCONTROLLABLE ANARCHY. AFTER PRAISING THE EFFECTIVE POLICE COUNTER-OFFENSIVE AGAINST SUCH PLANS, KRUGER SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE AUTHORITIES WERE IN COMPLETE COMMAND OF THE SITUATION, "ALTHOUGH WE WON'T SEE ANY FINAL RESULTS FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS."

5. KRUGER WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHILE THERE WERE POSITIVE ASPECTS TO BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS, SINCE "THE ESSENCE IS THAT THERE IS NO PLACE FOR THE WHITE MAN IN SOUTH AFRICA," WHITES CANNOT NEGOTIATE WITH ITS LEADERS. HE SAID ONCE BLACKS REALIZED VIOLENCE SOLVED NOTHING, THE SAG, WHICH IS CONCERNED WITH THE WELL-BEING OF ALL SOUTH AFRICANS, WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO CHANGE THINGS RADICALLY. BUT "SCHOOL BOYCOTTS OR AMERICAN PRESSURE MADE NO DIFFERENCE WHATSOEVER TO WHAT WAS HAPPENING AND WOULD HAPPEN IN SOUTH AFRICA." KRUGER ALSO WARNED THAT WHITES WHO, FRUSTRATED BY THE SAG'S POLICIES AND FIRM HOLD ON POWER, COOPERATED WITH BLACK REVOLUTIONARIES COULD ALSO BE SUBJECT TO POLICE ACTION.

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PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01
USSS-00 SCA-01 /109 W
-----005583 291748Z /46

R 291600Z JUL 77
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6. COMMENT: KRUGER'S STATEMENT APPEARED ONE DAY AFTER THE CITIZEN BEGAN A SERIES OF "REVELATIONS" OF A "MASTER ANC, S.A. COMMUNIST PARTY PLOT TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT" (SEPTEL). COUPLED WITH THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF A NEW POLICE ANTI-TERRORIST BORDER PATROL CAMPAIGN AND CRACKDOWNS ON BPC AND OTHER BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS MOVEMENT LEADERS, THE KRUGER STATEMENT WAS PROBABLY DESIGNED TO REASSURE THE WHITE COMMUNITY AND JUSTIFY A POLICE CRACK-DOWN ON THE DISSIDENTS IN THE EVENT

HE CONSIDERS SUCH A COURSE NECESSARY.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENTS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, ARRESTS
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR03767
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770272-1093
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977074/aaaaadfm.tel
Line Count: 171
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7b320467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PRETORIA 3741
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1809511
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STUDENT UNREST SPREADS SPORADICALLY; KRUGER TAKES FIRM STAND
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PORS, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7b320467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009